

Amended Patent Claims

1                 1. (original) A device for the continuous casting of  
2 metals, especially steel materials, to elongated products in a  
3 multistrand casting apparatus with a plurality of continuous  
4 casting molds which are separately mounted in respective  
5 oscillating frames (2) oscillatingly driven in a casting direction  
6 (1), the casting frames being mounted on both sides of the casting  
7 strands (3) by leaf spring pairs (4) which extend transversely to  
8 the casting direction for guiding and weight compensation on a  
9 foundation frame, characterized in that,

10                 two housings (6a) configured as compact flat cassettes  
11 (6) are arranged one behind the other in the continuous casting  
12 direction (1) on an elongated foundation frame (5), in which  
13 housing upper and lower leaf spring pairs (4a; 4b) extend  
14 transversely to the cast strands (3) and that oscillating drives  
15 (11) engage the leaf spring pairs (4a; 4b), whereby a front  
16 oscillating drive (11a) operates synchronously with the rear  
17 oscillating drive (11b).

1                 2. (original) The device according to claim 1,  
2 characterized in that,  
3                 the front oscillating drive (11a) is set with respect to  
4 the rear oscillating drive (11b) for an arcuate path (13) of the  
5 cast strand (3) to operate with different strokes.

1               3. (currently amended) The device according to ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1,  
3               characterized in that,  
4       the oscillating drives (11a; 11b) are comprised of hydraulic drive  
5       units.

1               4. (currently amended) The device according to ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,  
3               characterized in that,  
4       the flat cassettes (6) are comprised of two rectangular frames (16)  
5       each of which has two leaf spring pairs (4a; 4b) forming a leaf  
6       spring spaced apart in height, the frames being spaced apart in the  
7       strand travel direction (1) and in that between the rectangular  
8       frames a mold support frame (17) is arranged.

1               5. (currently amended) The device according to ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,  
3               characterized in that,  
4       oscillating drive units (14) each are arranged in the median plane  
5       (19) of the continuous casting strand (3) beneath the two  
6       rectangular frames (16) and between longitudinal beams (5a; 5b) of  
7       the foundation frame (5).

1               6. (currently amended) The device according to ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1,  
3               characterized in that,

4       in the foundation frame (5) between longitudinal beams (5a; 5b)  
5       suspension elements (20) are pivotally mounted for suspending a  
6       support roll segment.

7           7. (original) The device according to claim 6,  
8           characterized in that,  
9       the suspending elements (20) are comprised of a respective double  
10      arm lever (20) pivotally mounted on the longitudinal beam (5a; 5b),  
11      with a suspension trough (22) on one lever end (21a) and an  
12      adjusting device (23) connected to another lever end (21b).

1               8. (currently amended) The device according to one of  
2 claims 1 to 7 claim 1,  
3               characterized in that,  
4        a water clamping plate (9) for supplying the continuous casting  
5       mold with a cooling medium is arranged on the rear flat cassette  
6       (6b) and the cooling medium feed (10) and the cooling medium  
7       discharge (24) run rearwardly away from the cast strand (3).

Atty's 23217

Pat. App. Not known - US phase of PCT/EP2003/009710

This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US national phase of PCT/EP2003/009710 to the international application according to Rule 78, and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.

By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752  
Attorney for Applicant

16 March 2005  
5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900  
Bronx, NY 10471-0900  
Cust. No.: 535  
Tel: (718) 884-6600  
Fax: (718) 601-1099

rg